Therefore, IMD which has been historically depending on the statistical model have not yet adopted dynamical model for making forecast. More test and research work is required to switchover to dynamical model for making monsoon forecast by IMD.

(b) C-MMACS issued forecasts for June, July and August months separately. Prediction made by C-MMACS for June rainfall was below normal by 34%, prediction for July 2005 was12% below normal and for AugusJ, 13% above normal. Actual rainfall in June 2005 was 12% below normal, in July 14% above normal and in August 27% below normal.

IMD's forecast for the seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole was 2% below normal which was very close to actual seasonal rainfall (1% below normal).

(c) No, Sir. IMD make use of all available parameters which using statistical model which has been validated over the years. In addition, IMD also uses a dynamical model in experimental mode to obtain more insights to the spatial distribution of rainfall. IMD is continuously engaged in improvement of forecast systems. IMD also consults all other research institutions including C-MMACS before issuing forecasts.

Brain Research Centre

1108. SHRIS.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a Brain Research Centre opening under CSIR in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funding given to this Centre during the 1st three years, respectively;

(d) the contribution of the Centre during the last three years;

(e) whether any assessment of the utility of this Centre have been done; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government of India established a National Brain Research Centre (NBRC) in May, 1999 as an autonomous institution

under the administrative control of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, not under CSIR. The centre was set up with the purpose to act as the apex coordination Centre for brain research, to consolidate, network and undertake basic research of high caliber in neuroscience and establish linkages with national and international organizations involved in neuroscience research.

(c) A total grant of Rs. 4760.00 lakhs was provided to NBRC during the last three years (Rs. 1100 lakh during the financial year 2002-03; Rs. 1560 lakh during the financial year 2003-04, Rs.2100 lakh during the financial year 2004-05).

(d) NBRC has initiated several research programmes in neuroscience, which include activities in the area of stem cell biology, molecular and cellular neuroscience, theoretical neurobiology, systems neuroscience, cognitive neuroscience, neurovirology and neuroinformatics. The Centre was granted the status of deemed university in May 2002 and is continuing with its M.Sc. and Ph.D. programmes for Research Fellows.

(e) and (f) The performance of the centre was reviewed during July, 2004, by a high level committee under the chairmanship of Prof. D. Balasubramanian, Director, L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad as per recommendation of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The committee observed that the Centre has concentrated a triad of activities—research, human resource development and hub of network in the broad field of neuroscience and considered the overall performance as very good.

Agreement with Ireland

1109. SHRIMATI N.P DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian National Science Academy and the Science Foundation of Ireland have signed an agreement during the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Ireland; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir, it is a fact that the Indian National Science Academy